

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended): A front fork comprising:

an outer tube;

an inner tube inserted expansibly and contractibly into the outer tube;

a double-rod damper disposed inside the outer tube and the inner tube, the double-rod damper including a cylinder, a piston received in the cylinder, a first piston rod and a second piston rod extending respectively from each side of the piston and penetrating through the cylinder, wherein an upper chamber and a lower chamber are defined between the cylinder and the piston, into which that oil is contained; and

a fork-inside oil chamber defined by the outer tube, the inner tube, and the double-rod damper, into which oil and air are contained, the double-rod damper further including:

a piston rod connection mechanism that connects at least one of the first piston rod and the second piston rod to the piston such that the one is displaceable in a direction perpendicular to an axis of the piston; the piston rod connection mechanism including;

a hollow holder that is opened at a lower side thereof and connected to the piston, the hollow holder receiving an end portion of the first piston rod or the second piston rod;

a snap ring disposed in a lower side of an inner surface of the hollow holder;

a stop ring engaged with the end portion of the first piston rod or the second piston rod;
and

a spacer through which the stop ring is supported to the snap ring.

2. (canceled)

3. (previously presented): The front fork as set forth in claim 1, wherein the piston rod connection mechanism includes a mechanical connection between the piston and the at least one of the first piston rod and the second piston rod, and the mechanical connection allows the one piston rod to be displaceable in the direction perpendicular to the axis of the piston.